

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7233

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 8295

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EINV, OPIC, LI

SUBJECT: LIBERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS MEETING WITH U.S.
INVESTORS

REF: (A) USUN 4902 (B) MONROVIA 8055, (C) USUN 4792
AND PREVIOUS

1. IN TWO SEPARATE MEETINGS, THE FIRST DECEMBER 1 WITH THE A/DCM AND THE SECOND DEC. 2 WITH THE CHARGE, MINISTER DENNIS RAISED A REPORT FROM HIS AMBASSADOR IN NEW YORK ABOUT THE MEETING TO THE EFFECT THAT 50 U.S. BUSINESSMEN WOULD ATTEND BUT THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG WOULD ONLY MAKE INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND THEN LEAVE (EMBASSY DID NOT SHARE WITH FONMIN FYI SECTION REFTEL A). HE RECALLED THE GENESIS OF THE MEETING AND THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD ORIGINALLY PROPOSED IT AND ALUNCHEON AND HAD INVITED DENNIS AND A DELEGATION OF RANKING LIBERIANS TO NEW YORK FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESENT AND POTENTIAL U.S. INVESTORS. THE BOTTOM LINE FOR DENNIS SEEMED TO BE THAT AFFAIR WAS LIKE ASKING SOMEONE TO DINNER, GREETING THEM AT THE DOOR AND THEN LEAVING.

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2. WITH THIS BACKGROUND AND IN THE SECOND MEETING WITH THE CHARGE, HE SAID THAT AFTER FULL DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT, AND WITH THE PRESIDENT'S CONCURRENCE, HE WOULD PREFER TO POSTPONE THE MEETING TO SUCH A TIME AS WOULD PERMIT A PROGRAM AS ORIGINALLY OUTLINED TO HIM. HE TENDED TO DOWN-PLAY THE QUESTION OF A LUNCHEON, CENTERING HIS CON-

CERN ON THE SHORT TIME THAT HE HAD BEEN LED TO
BELIEVE AMBASSADOR YOUNG WOULD PARTICIPATE
IN THE MEETINGS.

3. THE CHARGE SAID THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG UNDOUBTEDLY
DID NOT INTEND ANY INHOSPITALITY AND THAT THERE
MIGHT BE A MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN USUN AND THE
LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UN. WHILE DENNIS CON-
TINUED TO SAY THAT HE PREFERRED TO POSTPONE
THE MEETING, HE AGREED TO THE CHARGE'S PROPOSAL THAT
EMBASSY RELAY HIS CONCERNS TO USUN AND SOLICIT
CLARIFICATION. (IN THIS REGARD IT WOULD BE USEFUL
TO RELAY TO DENNIS, IF POSSIBLE, NATURE OF AMBASSADOR
YOUNG'S NOONTIME APPOINTMENT IN WASHINGTON.)

4. WE ARE NOT SURE AT THIS POINT THAT DECEMBER 8
MEETING CAN BE SALVAGED. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON AMOUNT
OF TIME THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG WILL BE ABLE TO DEDICATE
TO THE MEETING AND TO A LESSER EXTENT WHETHER A LUNCHEON
WILL BE HOSTED BY THE MISSION. WHILE HE SAID HE WAS
CANCELLING HIS WEEKEND AIR RESERVATIONS FOR NEW YORK,
DENNIS DID SAY HE WAS KEEPING HIS CALENDAR OPEN
THROUGH THURSDAY OF NEXT WEEK. ON THE OTHER HAND, SINCE
THE OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION ARE COMING FROM
JAPAN, REFTEL B, DENNIS SAID THAT HE WILL HAVE TO NOTIFY
THIS GROUP ONE WAY OR THE OTHER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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5. ACTION REQUESTED. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE
USUN'S REACTION TO ABOVE BY NIACT IMMEDIATE RESPONSE.
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